



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Public Hearing
February 25, 2010**

**Senate Bill 211, An Act Concerning Criminal Cases Of Persons Who
Have Returned From Service With The Armed Forces**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to *Senate Bill 211, An Act Concerning Criminal Cases of Persons who have Returned from Service with the Armed Forces*. This bill would require the Branch to establish a separate docket to handle criminal matters of those who have returned from service with the armed forces.

The Judicial Branch has consistently opposed legislation that would require the creation of special courts or dockets because, although those courts or dockets might benefit the cases they handle, they take away from the resources available to handle all our other cases. This is particularly problematic during this time of fiscal crisis, when our resources are already seriously strained. Legislation of this type impinges upon the Judicial Branch's ability to utilize our scarce resources optimally.

In this particular case, we believe the bill would be of limited benefit. Our judges routinely take into account the fact that a defendant has served their country and may have unique issues that led the individual to commit a crime; veterans are often referred to treatment from the existing criminal docket.

Because passage of this bill would further strain Judicial Branch resources without providing a significant additional benefit to veterans, I would respectfully request that the Committee not act favorably on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "S. Ment", is located at the bottom right of the page.